

My Daddy's not your average Dad
 He's different from the rest
 He wears a special uniform
 He has medals upon his chest
 My Daddy's not your average Dad
 He's a HERO in the Army
 Although I don't see him much
 His love always surrounds me
 My Daddy's not your average Dad
 He's in a special place
 He watches me from heaven
 With a smile upon his face
 My Daddy's not your average Dad
 He is always here with me
 He holds my hand when I go outside
 Although no one else can see
 My Daddy's not your average Dad
 He fought for me and you
 I'm so very proud of you Dad
 And I love and miss you too!
 I love you Daddy,
 Madison McDowell (Roswell, NM)

Madam Speaker, it was Joseph Campbell who said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

Make no mistake, Army SPC Robert Matthew McDowell was not only a dedicated soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE INDEPENDENT
 INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS
 OF NEW YORK ON ITS 125TH AN-
 NIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of New York on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary.

This year, the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of New York, or IIABNY, will celebrate its 125th year of existence. IIABNY is very proud of the constant commitment its members have made to their communities. The theme of this 125th anniversary is "IIABNY members committed to their communities for 125 years."

IIABNY was founded in Buffalo in the year 1882 as a voice for New York's independent insurance agents. After a few name and location changes, IIABNY settled in Dewitt, a suburb of Syracuse, NY. As the oldest and largest state association for independent insurance agents and brokers, IIABNY represents nearly 1,900 agencies and their nearly 20,000 employees throughout New York State.

Many leaders at the national association, the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America (IIABA), have originated in New York. In 1898, Mr. C.H. Woodworth, from Buffalo, New York, was the second IIABA president. He is considered by many to be the "father of the association." Through the years, six New York members have served as the national president. Four New Yorkers have been honored with the Woodworth Memorial Award, which is bestowed upon an individual who has performed special, meritorious, and outstanding service on behalf of the independent agency system and IIABA members everywhere.

The mission of IIABNY, working in the public's best interest, is to advance the performance and success of independent insurance agencies and brokerages in New York. Starting with the landmark 1904 "Yonkers Case," clearly establishing agents' ownership of expirations, advocacy efforts have been undertaken and continue today on behalf of independent insurance agents and brokers as well as small business owners.

IIABNY has evolved as member needs have changed. IIABNY draws on vast experience from the past, strength and respect in the present, and foresight for the future of the independent agency system. Agents and brokers have come to rely on the association to be their advocate on many fronts. IIABNY clearly has an impressive history and they continue today as the voice of independent agents and brokers.

Madam Speaker, I ask that this honorable body join me in celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of New York.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
 EMPLOYEE COMBAT ZONE TAX
 PARITY ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Federal Employee Combat Zone Tax Parity Act, which would provide parity by extending the tax credit currently received by military personnel to the civilian federal employees working alongside them.

It is only fair that both military and civilian employees who are serving side by side receive the same tax treatment. In fact, even contract employees can get a tax break through the foreign earned investment tax credit, but federal employees are specifically exempted from that tax credit.

As a former federal employee, I am keenly aware of the invaluable contributions federal employees make to our country. I believe we must ensure that our federal workforce is treated with fairness and respect.

The Pentagon stated in the proposed regulations for the new National Security Personnel System that "NSPS is essential to the department's efforts to create an environment in which the total force, uniformed personnel and civilians, think and operates as one cohesive unit." What kind of message does it send to civilian employees if they receive disparate tax status from their military colleagues?

Just as military personnel, federal employees serving in combat zones must leave their families behind and this can increase the financial burdens on families. Families with two working parents suddenly have only one parent able to care for the needs of the family. Military personnel in combat zones were given a tax credit back in 1913 to help alleviate their tax burden, but federal employees were left out.

Since 9/11 it has become ever more vital to have a thriving civil service participating in our efforts to fight the war on terrorism. Now more than ever in our nation's history we must take action that reflects the contributions both our civilian and military employees are making—in

the war on terrorism and as well as the daily operations of the federal government in providing the services upon which every American relies.

Federal employees are on the front lines of the war against terror.

The first American to die in Afghanistan was a CIA agent from my district.

Federal employees are in Iraq helping the Iraqi people to build a free nation.

Throughout the world, America's civil servants are serving our government and our people, often in dangerous locations.

How can we tell them we will not give them a fair and equitable tax credit that recognizes their hard work, dedication, and sacrifice?

We are asking federal employees to take on more and more responsibility every day. They are on the ground in the war on terrorism taking over new roles to relieve military personnel of tasks civilian employees can perform. They are all playing a vital role in keeping us safe and deserve to be treated with respect and fairness.

We have a long tradition in the Congress of recognizing the valuable contributions of our federal employees in both the military service and in the civil service by providing fair and equitable treatment. This is not the time to shirk our duty to the civil service.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Federal Employee Combat Zone Tax Parity Act.

TRIBUTE TO PURPLE HEART
 RECIPIENT EDGAR WILTON CARR

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Edgar Wilton Carr, a native of Essex, Ohio who served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. Assigned as an Aerial Gunner with the 453rd Bombardment Group 8th, Mr. Carr bravely encountered dangerous and life-threatening events during his time in the Air Force.

As a pilot during the attack on Germany in 1944, Mr. Carr participated in the first night's bombing of Berlin. In one mission over Germany, his plane was shot down and he was forced to parachute from the damaged plane. The jump was so dangerous that part of his face and both his hands suffered severe freezing from the air temperature and altitude. Another time Mr. Carr was taken as a prisoner of war and spent fifteen months in a German prison camp.

While the mental and physical injuries he suffered in the fight against the Axis powers were great and stayed with him throughout his life, Mr. Carr always maintained a positive outlook and shared his great sense of humor with everyone he met. This light-hearted attitude made such an impression on his family that even after his passing they tell stories about him with pride and with the comment, "That's my father."

As General George Patton once said, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men." The soldiers of World War II will always be remembered as the greatest generation, a generation that gave so much for our country. Mr. Carr was no exception and